

Fiscal Year 2017 Important Notice

Reporting Requirements for the Revised Total Coliform Rule, Effective April 1, 2016:

Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40CFR), Part 141 for the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) at Sections 141.21, Subpart Y-Sections 141.63(c), 141.852 (analytical methods and laboratory certification), and 141.858 (repeat monitoring and E. coli requirements) contain the requirements to maintain drinking water laboratory certification for all methods used for microbiological testing.

Effective April 1, 2016, the allowance to test drinking water total coliform positive original growth for the presence or absence (P-A) of **fecal coliform bacteria will no longer be allowed**. In response to the revised requirements, the Office of Quality Assurance (OQA) will remove all associated parameter codes that allow for fecal coliform verification of a positive total coliform drinking water sample. This information was also included with the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 renewal applications as an Important Notice.

A link to the February 13, 2013 Final Rule is provided below:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-02-13/pdf/2012-31205.pdf>

The testing must now focus on the P-A for total coliform and **E. coli bacteria** specifically.

If the laboratory is maintaining drinking water certification for any of the following method options the certification will be removed from all Annual Certified Parameter Lists (ACPLs) effective April 1, 2016:

SM 9221B + SM 9221E (parameter code DW01.00270)

SM 9221D + SM 9221E (parameter code DW01.00220)

SM 9222B + SM 9221E (parameter code DW01.00250)

SM 9221E (parameter code DW01.00050).

All effected laboratories will receive a revised ACPL that reflects this change to the laboratory's certification.

If the laboratory currently maintains certification for any of the parameter codes above **only**, then the ability to perform drinking water testing for samples required under the RTCR will be lost. Any laboratory performing testing without certification is liable for enforcement actions.

If laboratories wait until the renewal application for FY 17 to apply for the required presence or absence Total coliform / E. coli approved methods, the certification cannot be made effective before July 1, 2016. Laboratories must contact the Office of Quality Assurance to apply for and obtain certification and pay a \$400 modification fee to add the new certification. If you have any questions please contact Debra Waller at debra.waller@dep.nj.gov